

at the growth of political action committee contributions in just the last few years. Now let me show you some of the statistics. In 1974 there were eighteen political action committees in the State of Nebraska. In 1978 there were forty-four political action committees officially formed in the State of Nebraska, a growth of two and a half times in political action committees, the number of political action committees in four years. Now most important, in 1978 political action committees contributed over \$70,000 to unicameral candidates in the State of Nebraska. Over \$70,000 were contributed to candidates from these political action committees alone to say nothing of unions, to say nothing of corporations. Now I think we all know that these groups are not contributing that kind of money out of the goodness of their hearts and they are not contributing that kind of money because they are civic minded. They are contributing that kind of money because they hope to influence public policy in the Nebraska Legislature. Justin Dart, who is the chairman of Dart Industries, said that dialogue with politicians is fine but with a little bit of money they hear you better, and as special interest contributions increase in the State of Nebraska in geometric proportions, why it is going to become increasingly difficult for candidates to turn off the tap and to cut the strings. So this bill is necessary for two reasons. First of all, we need to demonstrate to the people of the State of Nebraska who can't vote on bills in this body, who aren't members of this body, that we are going to rely upon them to finance our campaigns and not on the special interest groups who want special favors and who are interested in good government, and we also need to demonstrate that we are concerned about the growth of special interest campaign financing and we are willing to take a small step towards bringing it under control. So, members of the Legislature, I urge you to advance this bill out of committee, to this body for debate and consideration. Thank you.

SENATOR KAHLE PRESIDING

SENATOR KAHLE: The next speaker will be Senator Reutzel. Before he starts I would like to introduce from Senator Haberman's district, four young ladies who are high school students from Imperial who are here today to participate in the girls' state basketball tournament. Good luck and they are in the North balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized. While I have the Chair I would also like to introduce my wife and our two daughters, Sharilyn, Mrs. Jerry Hartman, and her two children, Becky and Allison, and my other daughter, LaNita, Mrs. Johnson and her daughter, Amanda, and son, Eddie, three years old. So would you please stand and be recognized. It is a great amount of pleasure for me. Thank you. Senator Reutzel.